

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 LONDON 03052 232308Z
ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W
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O R 232027Z FEB 78
FM AMEMBASSY LONDON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3499
AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

C O N F I D E N T I A L LONDON 03052

EXDIS HANDLE AS NODIS

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PDEV, RH, UK
SUBJECT: MACHEL'S REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE IN CONTACT-
ING MUZOREWA

1. FOLLOWING MEETING WITH OWEN THIS MORNING, JOHNNY GRAHAM INFORMED ME THAT UK EFFORTS TO FIND SUITABLE PERSON TO ACT AS MESSENGER FOR MACHEL IN CONTACTING MUZOREWA RUNNING INTO NUMEROUS OBSTACLES. ONLY PERSON UK HAD BEEN ABLE TO IDENTIFY IS JOURNALIST WHO, FOR VARIETY OF REASONS, IS RELUCTANT TO ASSUME THE TASK. GRAHAM AND LAVER BELIEVE IT IS IMPORTANT THAT WE TRY TO SATISFY MACHEL'S REQUEST IF AT ALL POSSIBLE SINCE MACHEL LIKELY TO INTERPRET OUR RESPONSE AS INDICATION OF OUR DESIRE TO BE HELPFUL. SINCE BRITISH STYMIED IN EFFORTS TO ASSIST, THEY WOULD LIKE TO SHIFT BURDEN BACK TO US.

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2. I MENTIONED THAT WE PREVIOUSLY HAD CONSIDERED ASKING HELEN KITCHEN, CURRENTLY IN SOUTH AFRICA, IF SHE WOULD BE WILLING TO UNDERTAKE ROLE, NOTING THAT SHE IS PROMINENT BUT NON-OFFICIAL AMERICAN WHO WOULD BE BOTH RELIABLE AND DISCREET. GRAHAM THOUGHT SUGGESTION A GOOD ONE.

3. ACTION REQUESTED:

THAT PRETORIA AND/OR CAPE TOWN
ATTEMPT TO LOCATE MS. KITCHEN IN SOUTH AFRICA AND SEE
WHETHER SHE WOULD BE PREPARED TO ACT AS MESSENGER.
IT SHOULD BE EXPLAINED THAT MISSION WOULD INVOLVE TRAVEL
TO MAPUTO TO RECEIVE WRITTEN MESSAGE FROM MACHEL TO
MUZOREWA, WITH POSSIBILITY OF MEETING PERSONALLY WITH
MACHEL. FROM THERE, MS. KITCHEN WOULD HAVE TO ARRANGE
TO TRAVEL TO SALISBURY TO DELIVER MESSAGE TO MUZOREWA.
WE DO NOT KNOW WHETHER MUZOREWA WOULD WISH TO SEND REPLY
BACK TO MACHEL BUT SUSPECT THIS WOULD NOT BE REQUIRED.
ENTIRE MISSION WOULD HAVE TO BE HANDLED WITH GREATEST
DISCRETION, AND MS. KITCHEN WOULD HAVE TO HAVE OTHER
OSTENSIBLE REASONS FOR TRAVELING TO MAPUTO AND SALISBURY

4. MISSIONS SHOULD BE AWARE THAT MS. KITCHEN IS
PERSONAL FRIEND OF ASSISTANT SECRETARY MOOSE, WHO SPOKE
WITH HER JUST BEFORE HER DEPARTURE FROM U.S. FOR SOUTH
AFRICA (BUT NOT ON THIS SUBJECT). IN CONVEYING ABOVE,
YOU SHOULD EXPRESS MOOSE'S PERSONAL HOPE THAT SHE WOULD
BE ABLE TO UNDERTAKE MISSION, BUT EMPHASIZE THAT SHE
SHOULD FEEL ABSOLUTELY NO RPT NO OBLIGATION TO ACCEPT.

5. REQUEST DEPARTMENT'S ADVICE ON HOW MS. KITCHEN'S
TRAVEL EXPENSES MIGHT BE OFFSET. BREWSTER

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